

Appln No. 09/892,242

Amdt date September 9, 2005

Reply to Office action of July 11, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-37 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 20, 23, 26, and 35 have been amended. The amendments do not add new matter. Entry of the amendments and an early indication of allowance of claims 1-37 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-19, 22-25, 27, 28, 30-34, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,769,063) in view of Callum (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,964) and further in view of Mano ("Digital Design, Second Edition"). Claims 4 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanda in view of Callum and Mano, and further in view of Steinman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,591,349). Claims 13, 20-21, 29, and 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanda in view of Callum and Mano, and further in view of Windirsch (U.S. Patent No. 6,760,439). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended to recite first, second, and third input values, "the first, second, and third input values being determined based on the key provided by the key scheduler and further based on a select value indicative of whether a current cryptographic operation is to occur during an initial round of a particular series of rounds of cryptographic operations." (Emphasis added). Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Kanda, Callum, and Mano fails to teach or suggest the recited input values. There is nothing in these references to teach or suggest a need or desirability of the recited "select value," and much less, a use

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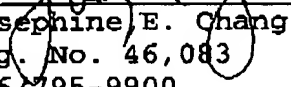
of the "select value" to determine the recited "first, second, and third input values." Accordingly, claims 1 and 23 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-22 and 24-37 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, reexamination, and an early indication of allowance of claims 1-37.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By


Josephine E. Chang
Reg. No. 46,083
626/795-9900

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